attacks on officers were made in the Press, ask the officer concerned to clear his character, or the newspaper which published the libel should be proceeded against. The way in which the Government responded to communal representation seemed to encourage the existence of caste feeling in regard to appointments. The object with which the Assembly itself was created was defeated when caste or sectarian representation was demanded by the different communities. The Member requested that such a sectarian agitation be stamped out altogether. The appointment of foreigners was, the Member submitted, justifiable only when natives were not available. When such importations were necessary, the larger and wider field of British India should be made the field for recruitment and not the narrower fields of the adjoining British District or Native State.

In conclusion, the Member requested that a Committee might be appointed to inquire into the representations made at the Assembly on the public service and take evidence and submit its report to Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. Plea for the institution of a Civil Service Examination for Travancore.

Mr. P. A. Abraham B. A., B. L. (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that the object of his representation was to bring about some modification in the manner of filling up appointments. The importance of the subject would be evident from repeated representations in the previous sessions of the Assembly and from frequent discussion of it in the newspapers of the land, in which grave statements were made about the manner of filling up vacancies. Complaints of the kind the Member was referring to were as old as the Assembly. It was a difficult problem for solution. But the complaints being loud, some remedy should be found. What struck the Member as a remedy was the institution of a Civil Service Examination in the same manner as the I. C. S. The chief defect in the existing arrangements was that a qualified young man entering the public service in his 25th year had to wait till he was about 50 years old for the post of a Peishkar or a Division Assistant. In other words, he had no chance of filling a responsible post when he had the necessary mental energy and vigour. Such a gradation of the service was not to the benefit of the State or of the officer concerned. On account of there being no chance for promotion within a reasonable time, several young men with high qualifications had to go outside the State for appointment. If under a system of Civil Service Examination the more brilliant of the natives could be appointed in the service, that would be a distinct advantage to the country.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. The removal of all kinds of racial bar in the matter of admission to the Public service and the need for the recognition of equality of civic rights.

Mr. Eapen Geevarghese (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that the movement demanding civic rights to all classes of His Highness' subjects was one year old and that there were not many who had not become aware of its aims and objects. It was not their desire to deprive any community of its rights and long-established privileges. Their cherished ambition was that they should be given their due without distinction of caste or creed and that Government should recognise the equality of all citizens. He could not understand how they, forming twenty six lakhs of His Highness' subjects composed of Christians, Mahomedans, Ezhavas, Pulayas, Parayas, &c., were considered inferior to the caste Hindus. On the other hand, the Christians were in the forefront in education, the Mahomedans in trade, the Ezhavas in industries and the Pulayas and Parayas in husbandry, on which other landed classes lived. He was sure that the truth of the above facts and statements was being recognised by their several well-wishers and friends from among the caste Hindus. Their chief complaint was their exclusion from the Land Revenue Department. The advocates of the civic rights movement had equal right to know and criticise the management of any department in the State. If it was contended that the amalgamation of Devaswoms with the normal Land Revenue Department was the real cause of the bar to their employment in that important branch of the State service, then the only course open was to separate the two. A progressive Government should always respond to the advanced views of reformers, and if it was not done, dangerous results were likely to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly